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CPYRGHT

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Choice of Allen Dulles Is Wise

Main Weakness in CIA Has Been Changing Leadership;
New Director Is Willing to Stay as Long as Needed

Allen W. Dulles is slated to become director of the Central Intelligence Agency, succeeding Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who was nominated by President Eisenhower to be Undersecretary of State.

The report of Dulles' prospective appointment has created a favorable impression in the Senate. It will be the first time since creation of the superintelligence agency that its leadership has been entrusted to an experienced civilian.

The previous directors, all uniformed men, were Admiral Sidney Souers, a naval reserve officer; Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, a West Pointer and presently the Air Chief of Staff; Rear Admiral Roscoe Hilenkoetter, an Annapolis graduate, and Gen. Smith, a professional soldier.

Dulles, who is a brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has had a wide experience in operational intelligence. After spending 10 years in the Foreign Service he resigned to join the law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell until the outbreak of the last war, when he joined Gen. "Wild Bill" Donovan's OSS. He was sent to Switzerland to handle the espionage and underground work in Germany and Switzerland.

Dulles' operations are little known to the public since their nature must remain even now a top secret. But he is credited as being the man who actually induced Gen. Kesselring, the commander of the Nazi forces on the Italian front, to start surrender negotiations with us. This caused an exchange of sharp notes between the late President Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, who protested that he was being double-crossed because he had not

been informed about those very secret negotiations. For the first and last time after we had become Russia's partner, President Roosevelt rebuked the Red marshal in strong language and received an apologetic communication from him.

The work done by Dulles during the critical war years was highly satisfactory. His agents, representing many nationalities but especially Germans and Italians who had "had enough," were keeping him posted with remarkable accuracy about the frustrated feelings among the top enemy leaders.

At the end of the war Dulles returned to his highly remunerative law practice but continued to be interested in intelligence. The late Secretary of Defense James Forrestal appointed him in 1948 as a member of a special commission for co-ordinating the intelligence services. Early in 1952, soon after Gen. Smith took over the CIA, Dulles was called to be his deputy, a position he still holds.

The future director of our most complex intelligence agency is giving up an income of about \$150,000 a year from his law practice for a Government salary of about \$15,000 because "the bug of intelligence has gotten into his blood stream." What appeals to many Congressmen, besides his being a civilian, is his willingness to pledge himself to remain in that position for as long as the Government wants him. Thus for the first time we may have a continuity in the directorship of the CIA.

The top-secret CIA has been under fire from Congress because the results it produced were not in proportion to the large operating costs. It was

also top heavy and had among its personnel some questionable characters. There is no doubt that the CIA made some serious mistakes and has often given the impression of being a haphazard organization. Some of its blunders have received deserved publicity; others have never reached the public.

But by and large, and considering that the CIA started from scratch less than seven years ago, its work has been fair. Its main drawback was the lack of continuity of leadership. Since 1946 when it was created there have been four different directors and each had his own organizational ideas.

Moreover, although the CIA was supposed to be an independent agency responsible directly to the President of the United States, it was in many instances under pressure from the Secretaries of State and Defense. An intelligence agency which has as many ramifications and duties as the CIA can function satisfactorily only if it has a permanent official at its head.

Our FBI has become world famous beyond any expectation because J. Edgar Hoover has remained its director for more than a quarter of a century. He thus has been able not only to put into effect his ideas but also to create a corps of loyal and devoted agents who place service to the country above personal interests. And the G-men are poorly paid.

The same loyalty and efficiency could be achieved in the CIA if the right man is placed at its head. Dulles may be that man. His record so far shows that he has done an excellent job whenever he has been in charge and had a free hand.